AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 1-3, 8-9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 31-33, and 38 are currently amended, and no claims are canceled, withdrawn, or newly presented.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving information over a packet switched network, the method comprising:

receiving a request message from a client for information;

forwarding a portion of the information to the client in response to the request message;

receiving a selection message <u>from the client in response to the forwarded portion</u> specifying

whether the remaining portion of the information should be retrieved; and

~~selectively~~ forwarding the remaining portion of the information to the client.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~forwarding~~ step <u>of</u> <u>forwarding the portion</u> comprises:

generating a response message that includes the portion of the information, the information

being partitioned into a plurality of data types, the data types including viewable data,

hidden data, encrypted data, and state data.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein <u>the</u> selection message in the step of receiving the selection message includes encrypted data and state data associated with the information, the method further comprising:

decrypting the encrypted data; and

transmitting new visible data of the information.

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4. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

preparing billing and reporting information based upon the state data; and

generating a report based upon the state data.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information is directory assistance information that includes a name field, and a directory number.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of forwarding is performed using a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP), the packet switched network being an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

retrieving the requested information from a database.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the request message ~~in the receiving step~~ provides state information.

9. (Currently Amended) A server for providing information over a packet switched network, the server comprising:

a communication interface configured to receive a request message from a client for

information; and

a processor coupled to the communication interface and configured to retrieve a portion of

the information from a database in response to the request message,

wherein the communication interface receives a selection message from a client in response to receipt of the retrieved portion, the selection message specifying whether a remaining portion of the information should be retrieved, the remaining portion of the information being ~~selectively~~ forwarded to the client.

10. (Original) The server according to claim 9, wherein the processor generates a response message that includes the portion of the information, the information being partitioned into a plurality of data types, the data types including viewable data, hidden data, encrypted data, and state data.

11. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 10, wherein the selection message includes encrypted data and state data associated with the information, the processor decrypting the encrypted data and instructing the transmission of new visible data of the information through the communication interface.

12. (Original) The server according to claim 10, wherein billing and reporting information is prepared based upon the state data.

13. (Original) The server according to claim 9, wherein the information is directory assistance information that includes a name field, and a directory number.

14. (Original) The server according to claim 9, wherein the communication interface is configured to use a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) to communicate with the client, the packet switched network being an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

15. (Original) The server according to claim 9, wherein the request message provides state information.

16. (Currently Amended) A server for providing information over a packet switched network, the server comprising:

   means for receiving a request message from a client for information;

   means for forwarding a portion of the information to the client in response to the request message;

   means for receiving a selection message <u>from the client in response to the forwarded portion</u> specifying whether the remaining portion of the information should be retrieved; and

   means for ~~selectively~~ forwarding the remaining portion of the information to the client.

17. (Original) The server according to claim 16, wherein the forwarding means comprises:

   means for generating a response message that includes the portion of the information, the information being partitioned into a plurality of data types, the data types including viewable data, hidden data, encrypted data, and state data.

18. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 17, wherein <u>the</u> selection message includes encrypted data and state data associated with the information, the server further comprising:

   means for decrypting the encrypted data; and

   means for transmitting new visible data of the information.

19. (Original) The server according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for preparing billing information based upon the state data; and

means for generating a report based upon the state data.

20. (Original) The server according to claim 16, wherein the information is directory assistance information that includes a name field, and a directory number.

21. (Original) The server according to claim 16, wherein the forwarding means uses a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP), the packet switched network being an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

22. (Original) The server according to claim 16, further comprising:

means for retrieving the requested information from a database.

23. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a client configured to transmit a request message for information over a packet switched network; and

a server configured to communicate with the client and to forward a portion of the information to the client in response to the request message, wherein <u>in response to the forwarded portion,</u> the client transmits a selection message specifying whether the remaining portion of the information should be retrieved to the server, the server ~~selectively~~ forwarding the remaining portion of the information to the client.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein the server generates a response message that includes the portion of the information, the information being partitioned into a

plurality of data types, the data types including viewable data, hidden data, encrypted data, and state data.

25. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 24, wherein the selection message includes encrypted data and state data associated with the information, the server decrypting the encrypted data and transmitting new visible data of the information to the client.

26. (Original) The system according to claim 24, wherein the server prepares billing information and a report based upon the state data.

27. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein the information is directory assistance information that includes a name field, and a directory number.

28. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein the server uses a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP), the packet switched network being an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

29. (Original) The system according to claim 23, further comprising:

a database communicating with the server, the database configured to store the requested information.

30. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein the request message provides state information, the server maintaining none of the state information.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for retrieving information over a packet switched network, the one or

more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving a request message from a client for information;

forwarding a portion of the information to the client in response to the request message;

receiving a selection message <u>from the client in response to the forwarded portion,</u> specifying whether the remaining portion of the information should be retrieved; and

~~selectively~~ forwarding the remaining portion of the information to the client.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 31, wherein the ~~forwarding~~ step <u>of forwarding the portion</u> comprises:

generating a response message that includes the portion of the information, the information being partitioned into a plurality of data types, the data types including viewable data, hidden data, encrypted data, and state data.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 32, wherein <u>the</u> selection message in the step of receiving the selection message includes encrypted data and state data associated with the information, the one or more processors further performing the steps of:

decrypting the encrypted data; and

transmitting new visible data of the information.

34. (Original)   The computer-readable medium according to claim 32, wherein the one or more processors further perform the steps of:

preparing billing information based upon the state data; and

generating a report based upon the state data.

35. (Original)   The computer-readable medium according to claim 31, wherein the information is directory assistance information that includes a name field, and a directory number.

36. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 31, wherein the step of forwarding is performed using a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP), the packet switched network being an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

37. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 31, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of:

retrieving the requested information from a database.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 31, wherein the request message ~~in the receiving step~~ provides state information.